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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international trade in agricultural and tropical products

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/207 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the World Food Council (WFC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1991, an updated comprehensive report on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products and developments on the liberalization of international agricultural and tropical products, taking into account the share of developing countries in such trade and the possible adverse short-term effects on net-food-importing developing countries, and on the follow-up to the section on agriculture of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

2. The present report is in response to that request and updates information provided in the earlier report contained in document A/45/583. Chapter I reviews recent trends in world production and trade of agricultural and tropical products, taking into account the share of developing countries in such trade, and analyses the short-term prospects for international markets, including food security. Chapter II then discusses recent developments regarding the liberalization of trade, including developments in the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), focusing in particular on the implications for developing countries. The final chapter considers a number of issues as follow-up to the section on agriculture of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

I. WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF AGRICULTURAL AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

3. Although it is declining as a proportion of world merchandise trade since the Second World War, world trade in agricultural products, including temperate-zone and tropical products, remains substantial - amounting to about $US 419 billion in 1990 - and is of vital importance to many countries, both exporters and importers. The general pattern of world trade in agricultural products as regards the composition of exports remains characterized by the continuing dependence of many developing countries on the export of tropical products.

4. Overall, developing countries continue to be highly dependent, in both relative and absolute terms, on the production and export of agricultural products. Whereas agriculture accounts for only 2.5 per cent of the gross domestic product in OECD countries, in 1989 it accounted for 10 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 22 per cent in East Asia, 33 per cent in South Asia and 34 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. In terms of employment, more than 60 per cent of the labour force of developing countries (Africa,

69 per cent; Latin America, 27 per cent; Near East, 41 per cent; and Far East, 61 per cent) derived their income from the agricultural sector, compared with 6 per cent in the developed market economy countries in 1989. The greater dependence of developing countries on agricultural production translates into a high dependence on agricultural exports. For the majority of developing countries, the share of agricultural products in total merchandise exports ranges from 50 per cent to 100 per cent.

5. A distinction should be made between those agricultural products which are produced chiefly by the developing countries and for which there are no close substitutes in the developed countries (e.g. tropical products such as coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, bananas and natural rubber) and those which are also produced by or have close substitutes produced by the developed countries (e.g., cereals, livestock, dairy products, edible oils and sugar). The latter category of products accounts for the bulk of world agricultural trade in value, and the developed countries are the major exporters of them, apart from sugar.

6. While developing countries are highly dependent on exports of tropical agricultural products, they are also dependent as a group, with a few exceptions, on imports of temperate agricultural products - that is, basic foodstuffs such as cereals, dairy products, meat and edible oils. Total food imports of developing countries totalled nearly $62 billion in 1989 (see table 1). The gross food imports of net food-importing developing countries accounted for about 80 per cent of this amount, while the net food imports of such countries totalled around $36 billion. The net food imports of low-income food-deficit countries totalled approximately $10 billion. Twenty-eight developing countries were net exporters, with net exports of about $19 billion in 1989.

A. Global and regional trends in production and trade

1. Production

7. At the world level, according to preliminary FAO estimates, agricultural production grew by about 1.5 per cent in 1990 with the production of food increasing slightly more slowly (see table 2). This expansion was smaller than in 1989, when agricultural production increased by more than 3 per cent - a rate above the annual average for the period 1986-1990. Regionally, production growth in 1990 among the developed countries was highest in North America, where recovery from the 1988 drought continued for the second consecutive year. A decline was experienced in both Western and Eastern Europe, including the USSR; while in Oceania output growth was positive. In the developing countries, the overall production growth rate of around 2 per cent in 1990 remained below total population growth. Production in the Near East rebounded from the sharp decline in 1989. Growth in the Far East was moderately lower than the average for the period 1986-1990; the Latin American and Caribbean region had a particularly low rate of growth, estimated at half of one per cent; and the African region suffered a decline of almost 1 per cent in agricultural output.

8. As regards the commodity composition of agricultural growth, world cereal production increased sharply in 1989-1990 reflecting large increases in North America, Asia (notably China, India and Bangladesh) and the USSR. Most major cereals participated in the increase of output in 1990. World production of wheat rose by an estimated 10 per cent, to a record of 595 million tons, mainly due to bumper crops in the United States and Canada, the USSR, the EEC, China, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Output of coarse grains has grown by a modest 2 per cent to 841 million tons; there were substantially larger crops in the United States, the USSR and Turkey, while there were reductions recorded in Brazil, the EEC, Australia and South Africa. Rice production has increased to a record level in 1990, almost 2 per cent higher than the very good harvest of the previous year.

9. In the developing countries as a whole, aggregate cereal output, which accounts for the bulk of their total staple food production, expanded moderately for the third year in succession. Even though production performance was good among the developing countries in Asia, there was a 10 per cent decline in South America, where cereal output has been falling for three consecutive years, and modest declines in Central America and the Caribbean and in Africa.

10. Other agricultural products also showed strong growth in 1990. World production of oilseeds, fats and oils, oilcakes and meals recovered in 1990 after the previous year's stagnation for fats and oils and decline for oilmeals. The major increase occurred in soybeans, as yields recovered from the previous year's drought in the United States and Argentina. World production was also higher for sunflower seed, lauric oils and palm oil. But there was a significantly lower production of groundnut, rapeseed, cottonseed, fish oil and fish meal. Production growth occurred largely in the developed countries due to the importance of the United States soybean crop, which increased by 24 per cent. In the developing countries, growth was a modest 2 per cent for fats and oils: Brazilian soybean production declined, and growth slowed for palm oil while oilmeal production stagnated as reduced production in India and China offset increases elsewhere.

11. With regard to other food products, world production of pulses reached a record level in 1990, with output increasing in both the developing and the developed countries. Growth in world meat production continued to be sluggish during 1990 with minimal increases in overall output in most countries and a number registering a decline; overall poultry recorded the strongest growth of any category of meat. World milk production showed a modest increase in 1990, the first increase in several years. The downward trend was halted in the EEC while output reached record levels in the USSR, the United States and India. Total sugar production rose by an estimated 2.9 per cent, reflecting higher output in developing countries. Among the beverage crops, tea production in 1990 rose above the reduced level of 1989, due to favourable weather conditions, while coffee and cocoa production remained near the levels of the previous year.

12. With regard to agricultural raw materials, world production of fibres was mixed. Global output of cotton fell, while that of jute, kenaf and allied fibres rose sharply from the low levels of the late 1980s. In the hard fibres sector, global output of sisal and henequen declined in 1990 after two years of recovery from the lowest level in several decades in 1987. There was little change in world production of cattle hides and sheepskins while goatskin output continued to increase slowly. World production of natural rubber rose in 1990, and although it fell short of world consumption for the fourth successive year, it prevented a faster drawing down of comparatively large stocks which continue to overhang the market. Global production of tobacco declined in 1990 as a result of reduced plantings in China, India, the USSR, Turkey and Brazil. The United States was the only major producing country to increase production substantially. During 1990 there were signs of a slowdown in the world forestry industry. A slackening of growth in world production and consumption was forecast, especially in North America, but not in Western Europe.

2. Trade and trends in market shares

13. The value of world trade in agricultural products grew by 4 per cent in 1990, to reach $419 billion; in volume terms, the growth was about 2.5 per cent. This growth performance was below that for 1989 and much lower than the levels for 1988, when the volume and value of agricultural trade increased by 5 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. As global agricultural output has continued to recover from the drought-related shortfalls of 1988, with the excellent harvest of food crops in 1990, countries - both developed and developing - were able to supply more of their food needs from domestic output. Nevertheless, 1990 marks another year when expansion of trade exceeded expansion of output. In relation to aggregrate world merchandise trade, the share of agriculture in world trade has been on a declining trend since the Second World War and was reduced to 13 per cent in 1990. 1/ Food products account for about 80 per cent of world agricultural trade and raw materials for the remaining 20 per cent.

14. The developed market economy countries continued to dominate world trade in agricultural products in terms of both exports and imports. On the export side, the share of the developed market economy countries in world exports of food and agricultural raw materials increased from about 58 per cent to 67 per cent and from about 55 per cent to 66 per cent, respectively, between 1970 and 1989. In contrast, as can be seen from table 3, the share of developing countries in world agricultural exports declined steadily during the 1970s, rose somewhat in the period 1981-1985 and fell again in 1986-1989. Despite the overwhelming dependence of the developing countries on agricultural exports - in 1989 agricultural exports accounted for 22 per cent of non-fuel export earnings of developing countries and 52 per cent of those of least developed countries - they accounted for less than a third of world exports of all agricultural products by the end of the 1980s. Thus developing countries, which depend heavily on agricultural products for their foreign exchange earnings, are in a minority position in this export sector, often in competition with exports from developed countries. There have been substantial

losses in the world market shares of developing countries in products such as meat, cereals, sugar, processed tropical beverage products, and rubber and wood products. In recent years, as can be seen from table 4, the share of developing countries in world agricultural exports in several product categories has continued to decline.

15. On the import side, as table 3 also shows, the share of the developed countries in world imports of agricultural products generally tended to decline in the 1970s and 1980s. In the case of food products, there is a reversal of the trend since 1980 due to increased trade among developed market economy countries, particularly that of the European Economic Community (EEC), and an upward trend in Japanese food imports. In contrast, the share of developing countries in world agricultural imports has generally tended to increase. The share of developing countries in world food imports went into a downward trend during the period 1985-1987, principally due to balance-of-payments and debt-service difficulties. However, this trend has since been reversed. In 1989 the gross food imports of developing countries rose to $61.6 billion, with their net food imports attaining the unprecedented level of $16.7 billion. For agricultural raw material imports, both the developed market economy countries and the countries of Eastern Europe have displayed a generally declining trend in their world import share. In contrast, for the developing countries the trend has been upwards since 1970.

16. Developed market economy countries have traditionally been and still remain the major markets for the agricultural exports of the developing countries. However, these markets, increasingly protected, have grown relatively slow for such products. Since the 1970s world exports of food products to developed market economy countries have grown at a much slower rate than world exports of the same items to other groups of countries. This is in large measure a reflection of domestic agricultural policies and protection adopted by these countries, the impact of which has been to reduce dependence on imports through increased domestic production. The growth in exports of developing countries of food items to developed market economy countries has been much slower than that achieved in all other markets. As a result, the share of exports of the developing countries of food items received by developed market economy countries declined from an average of 73 per cent for the period 1966-1970 to 54 per cent in 1985-1989. The share of the latter countries in the exports of developing countries of agricultural raw materials also declined over the same period, from 65 to 55 per cent. The countries of Eastern Europe have received a basically constant share of the exports of developing countries of food products and a reduced share of agricultural raw materials between the periods 1966-1970 and 1989.

17. Given the export dependence of the developing countries on the markets of the developed countries, in so far as the former countries, especially the agricultural export-dependent ones, continue to have large and persistent balance-of-payments deficits with the developed countries (because of heavy debt-service obligations and essential capital goods imports), the developing countries will need to expand their agricultural exports to the developed countries.

B. Current situation and short-term prospects for international agricultural markets, including food security

18. International agricultural markets were affected in 1990 by the slower growth in the world economy which weakened the demand for many agricultural products, by large increases in output levels which reduced import demand and increased export availabilities, and by decreases in many commodity prices. Prices of cereals (especially wheat), milk products, coffee, hides and skins, and natural rubber were sharply lower, compared to the previous year. In some sectors export prices did not fall and there were notable increases in the export prices of meat, especially pigmeat, and the fibres, especially jute and cotton. However, these increases in the prices of fibres had little impact on export earnings since there was a corresponding decline in the volume of exports. On the other hand, in most of the commodities where prices declined, there was not a compensating increase in the volume of exports.

19. Thus earnings from commodity exports in 1990 were generally lower than in 1989. Meat was the only sector where there was a notable increase in earnings from exports. At the other extreme, export earnings from milk products were forecast to have fallen by almost as much as the decline in prices, and in cereals, the price decline was exacerbated by a decline in the volume exported which especially affected earnings from rice and coarse grains. Overall, earnings from exports of agricultural commodities were estimated to have fallen by 6 per cent.

20. Prospects for 1991 are for continuing depressed prices for many agricultural products resulting from a further increase in the quantities offered on the world market and a turndown in demand growth due to the projected decline in world economic growth. In particular it is expected that existing stocks will continue to hold back price increases for cocoa, coffee, rubber, dairy products and wool. However, forthcoming harvests will also be influential particularly for those commodities such as rice, cotton, jute and oilseeds, for which stocks are insufficient to compensate for inadequate production. There is therefore the prospect of instability in prices. The world sugar market could remain volatile and extremely sensitive to speculative forces, especially should there be sharp and unforeseen increases or decreases in world output. The world fats and vegetable oil trade could expand but with limited impact on the value of international trade. Cereal trade is expected to be influenced by weak import demand which would continue to hold prices down, a situation which also would characterize the livestock products sector.

21. For agricultural raw materials the short-term outlook remains mixed. While export prices for jute and cotton could maintain the recent higher levels, little improvement is foreseen in prices for natural rubber and hides and skins while hard fibre prices could come under increasing downward pressure. There appeared little likelihood that the forestry and fishery sectors would resume their growth rates of the past decade, which accounted for approximately 30 per cent of total trade in agricultural, fishery and forestry products.

22. As regards world food security, although there was a slight improvement at the global level in 1990, the situation has deteriorated in several low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa. Estimates by FAO indicate that at the global level cereal output in 1990 exceeded consumption for the first time since 1986/87, leading to an increase in world stocks which represent 18 per cent of trend consumption, the top of the range considered by the FAO secretariat to be the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security. Although the 1990 harvest was a record for low-income food deficit countries as a whole, the increase was concentrated in Asia; cereal production declined in the low-income food deficit countries of Africa and Latin America. In Africa, in addition to the Sudan and northern Ethiopia, where the situation is critical, serious food shortages due to civil strife persist in Angola, Liberia, Mozambique and Somalia. In several Sahelian countries, food supplies are also tight following poor harvests late in 1990. In Latin America, food supply difficulties are also being encountered in several countries - notably Bolivia, Peru, Nicaragua, and Haiti. While good cereal harvests were gathered in Asia, following an excellent 1990 monsoon, adverse weather has reduced harvests in Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and recently Bangladesh. The conflict in the Persian Gulf region has aggravated food supply difficulties in a number of countries; special assistance is required by several of them for refugee feeding programmes. In sum, there has been an increase in both the number of countries requiring external assistance to cope with exceptional food supply difficulties and in their aggregate food aid requirements.

23. Cereal food aid availabilities in 1990/91 are expected to decline from shipments of 11.6 million tons in 1989/90 to 10.9 million tons, the lowest level since the mid 1980s and close to the minimum target of 10 million tons set by the World Food Conference in 1974. Shipments to low-income food deficit countries are expected to rise to around 8.8 million tons from last year's exceptionally low level of 7.8 million tons, when large quantities were provided to countries of Eastern Europe. Despite this recovery, food aid shipments to low-income food-deficit countries would remain low in 1990/91 in comparison with both shipments in earlier years and the assessed needs.

24. Budgetary allocations for food aid programmes of major donors for 1990/91 are expected to remain at about the same level as in the previous year. The United States, EEC, Canada and Japan alone account for over 90 per cent of the total food aid in cereals. The expected shipments by the United States during 1990/91 will amount to about 6 million tons of cereals, marginally above the level of 1989/90. Food aid in cereals by the EEC during 1990/91 financed by the regular food aid budget, and that by Canada is also expected to be marginally above last year's respective levels. The level of food aid shipments by Japan, mainly in the form of grants for purchases in third countries, during 1990/91, and those from other donor countries are also expected to be maintained at the level of the past year. Since food aid budgets are expressed in monetary terms, the actual volume of food aid shipments will further depend on the direction of prices in the course of the year.

25. The capacity of developing countries, particularly low-income food-deficit countries, to enhance their food security through trade remains precarious. With food production in these countries either stagnating or increasing at rates below population growth, the 1990/91 food imports required to maintain per capita food consumption at levels comparable to previous years are estimated at 50 million tons, about the same as in 1989/90. The ability of low-income countries to import this volume depends largely on export earnings and food aid. While food aid to such countries is expected to increase marginally in 1990/91 to about 9 million tons, the amounts provided as a percentage of their total cereal imports are much smaller than during the 1986-1988 period. While meeting their food import requirements may be eased by the current low level of international cereal prices, their capacity to import in general remains heavily restricted by their high debt-service levels and other financial and economic constraints. Export prospects are limited by the low or declining prices of their principal export commodities, the decline in economic growth in the industrialized countries, continued abundance of supplies of some export products, and barriers to trade.

II. DEVELOPMENTS ON THE LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

A. Distortions in international trade

26. The international market for agricultural and tropical products is affected by a variety of policy measures applied by Governments. These measures include border protection (tariffs, tariff escalation and non-tariff measures) to limit import access, internal support policies (subsidies in various forms to domestic producers) the effect of which is to raise domestic production higher than it would otherwise be, thus reducing domestic demand for imports or leading to higher export availability, and export subsidies (which distort competition among exporting countries). While policies falling into one or more of these categories are applied by many Governments, those applied in the markets of the industrialized countries, because of the importance of these markets in international trade, have the greatest impact on the world market.

27. Supply and demand imbalances on agricultural markets have been considerably aggravated by the agricultural policies of the major producers. A number of developed market economy countries, in particular, have pursued policies of protection and support for the agricultural sector, which have led to structural overcapacity in the agricultural sectors of these industrialized economies. Furthermore, in order to bolster domestic policy measures, Governments have instituted a variety of trade policy measures - ranging from conventional tariffs to a complex array of non-tariff measures (including variable levies, minimum prices, global and bilateral quotas, "voluntary" export restraints, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations) - to restrict imports of agricultural products. Additionally, countries that are exporters of agricultural products have also used export measures in support of domestic policy objectives. As a result of governmental policies in the agricultural sector, some developed countries which were previously major importers have increasingly become self-sufficient in agriculture or have gone beyond the stage of self-sufficiency to become large exporters of a wide range of agricultural products. An important result has been not only to reduce, or shut off, the traditional markets for developing countries but also to displace, often through subsidized exports, developing countries on world markets. Subsidized exports from developed countries have affected developing country exports, especially to third countries, of cereals, meat, dairy products, oilseeds/vegetable oils and sugar.

28. A major feature of the structure of tariffs and non-tariffs measures affecting agricultural (and in particular tropical-product) exports of developing countries is the tendency for tariffs to escalate with the stage of processing and for non-tariff measures to weigh more heavily on commodities in their processed forms. Many products of export interest to developing countries are particularly hit by such escalation of trade barriers. This has had a negative impact on the efforts of developing countries to enhance their participation in world agricultural trade in processed products.

29. The overall cost of the agricultural policies pursued by OECD countries, as measured by the sum of transfers from taxpayers (net of budget receipts from tariffs) and consumers (through higher prices), was an estimated $251 billion in 1989. Although this was lower than the peak value of $290 billion recorded in 1987, it was still above the already high level for the first half of the 1980s. The decline in producer subsidy equivalents (PSE) did not, however, reflect fundamental changes in governmental policy. The key influences were the recovery in some world market prices, particularly for major temperate zone commodities, and non-agricultural factors, such as changes in exchange rates. In 1990, the overall PSE level in industrialized countries was expected to rise due to an increased oversupply situation, following the recovery of output from the drought-reduced level of 1988, and to lower market prices.

30. A few changes in trade-distorting measures were reported in 1990. For example, Japan continued its market opening measures, announced in 1988, with the abolition of import quotas on sugar and sugar syrups, citrus products (purée, paste and pulp), non-citrus juices, some beef and dairy products. The United States converted its sugar import quota system into a tariff quota system, and EEC member States abolished or suspended a number of quantitative restrictions. However, at the end of 1990, non-tariff measures such as quantitative import restrictions, tariff quotas, and variable levies, as well as voluntary export restraints, anti-dumping and countervailing actions, continued to have a high incidence on agricultural products in the market of industrialized countries. For example, a count of known discriminatory export restraint-type arrangements involving GATT contracting parties indicated that at the end of 1990 the product group with the highest number of restraints is agricultural products. In addition, several industrialized countries have continued a high level of subsidization of their agricultural exports; they include United States, EEC, Switzerland, Norway, Austria, Finland, Canada and Sweden.

31. Aside from the possibility of an agreement in 1991 on multilateral agricultural reform in the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations, policy developments that are likely to affect agricultural markets in 1991 include the coming into force of the United States 1990 farm bill and the outcome of negotiations on the EEC's 1991/92 farm price package. The United States' Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, which amends its Food Security Act of 1985 and other farm legislation, will shape United States agricultural and food programmes over the next five years. The legislation continues the marketing loans for cotton and rice without many changes and establishes a marketing loan for soybeans and minor oilseeds. Target prices for programme crops are frozen at 1990 levels for the next five years, eliminating their downward trend under the 1985 farm bill. Loan rates under the 1990 farm legislation formula are likely to be higher than those under the 1985 farm bill. The new farm legislation establishes a floor under dairy price support at its current level for the next five years. For sugar, while providing for at least 1.25 million short tons (raw equivalent) of imported sugar, the legislation requires that marketing controls be imposed if the United States Department of Agriculture forecasts that the domestic supply of

sugar would require imports of less than 1.25 million tons. The new farm bill extends the provisions of the Export Enhancement Programme and the Targeted Export Assistance Programme (renamed Market Promotion Programme). For 1991, maximum funding for the two programmes is set at $425 and $175, respectively. The United States Congress also passed an appropriation bill providing $52.2 billion for agriculture and related agencies for fiscal year 1991.

32. At the time this report was being prepared, the Council of Agricultural Ministers of the EEC had still not reached agreement on farm prices and related measures for 1991/92. At issue are proposals by the Commission to cut farm support prices in order to keep farm spending within the "guidelines", or ceiling, of ECU 32.5 billion ($40 billion), fixed by EEC heads of States in 1988. The EEC agriculture commissioner has reportedly indicated that if no action were taken to reduce prices and cut overproduction, EEC stockpiles of surplus produce would grow in 1991 to 28 million tonnes of cereal (from a record of 20 million tonnes in current storage), to 1 million tonnes of butter and skimmed milk (from 725,000 tonnes) and to a record 1 million tonnes of beef (from 750,000 tonnes, currently). 2/

B. Progress in the Uruguay Round and the implications for developing countries

33. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, under the auspices of GATT, in which efforts have been made since 1986 to liberalize international trade in agriculture and tropical products, was scheduled to conclude in December 1990. However, owing to continuing wide differences of views among major participants in some key areas of the negotiations - including, in particular, agricultural reform - it was not possible to conclude the Round as planned, at the Brussels Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round (3-7 December 1990).

34. In agriculture, major differences of views and unresolved issues related to:

(a) The size and duration of the commitment to be entered into to reduce domestic agricultural support, border protection and export subsidies;

(b) The modalities of reduction, including which subsidies and protective measures should be reduced;

(c) Which products precisely should be covered;

(d) How special and differential treatment for developing countries should be given effect.

At one end of the spectrum some countries have insisted on a 75-90 per cent reduction commitment, to be implemented over a 10-year period, while at the other end, some countries have maintained that reduction commitments should be

limited to 20-30 per cent, implemented over a five-year period. Given this basic disagreement, not much progress was made on the other unresolved issues at Brussels.

35. In February 1991, participating countries decided to resume the Uruguay Round negotiations broken off at the end of the Brussels Meeting. In the agreed work programme for continuing the Uruguay Round negotiations, participants undertook, with respect to agriculture, to achieve specific binding commitments in each of the following areas - domestic support; market access; export competition - and to reach an agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary issues. An agenda for consultations was agreed upon, on the following issues:

(a) In the area of domestic support: a means of determining the policies that shall be excluded from the reduction commitment, the role and definition of an Aggregate Measurement of Support and equivalent commitments, a means of taking account of high levels of inflation faced by some participants, and the reinforcement of GATT rules and disciplines;

(b) In the area of market access: the modality and scope of tariffication, the modalities of possible special safeguards for agriculture, the scope and modalities of implementation of a minimum access commitment, the treatment of existing tariffs, and the reinforcement of GATT rules and disciplines;

(c) In the area of export competition: a definition of export subsidies to be subject to the terms of the final agreement, including the development of means to avoid the circumvention of commitments while maintaining adequate levels of food aid, and the reinforcement of GATT rules and disciplines;

(d) In the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures: further refinement of a number of technical provisions and procedures;

(e) In each of these areas, the particular concerns of developing countries, of net food importing developing countries, and those relating to food security will be examined.

36. With regard to tropical products, it was envisaged that the Brussels Ministerial Meeting would adopt a single market-access protocol incorporating the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations in a number of areas: tariffs, non-tariffs measures, natural resource-based products and tropical products. It was hoped that the bilateral market-access negotiations would be completed by the end of the Brussels Meeting, but they were not. There were also two points in the draft protocol which remained to be settled - i.e., reference to the application of article XXVIII of the GATT in cases of modification or withdrawal of non-tariff concessions; and the period of implementation of tariff concessions. (Most delegations favoured five annual cuts, beginning 1 January 1992, while some requested a larger period.)

37. In resuming negotiations on market access, the work programme agreed upon in February 1991 committed participants to review the status of bilateral and plurilateral market access negotiations and proposals and offers currently on the table, including those in tropical products and natural resource-based products. Under the former, delegations would be invited to give oral reports on the bilateral and plurilateral market-access negotiations which they had been holding before, at and since the Brussels Meeting. A total of 50 participants submitted proposals on tariffs and tropical products. The review of current proposals was a process that took place prior to Brussels, separately in the tariff and the tropical products negotiating groups.

38. Although the Uruguay Round negotiations were formally resumed in February 1991, they have not taken off in earnest due to a wait-and-see attitude on the part of many delegations, stemming from the uncertainty regarding extension of the "fast-track" authority granted by the United States Congress to the President. Under fast-track procedures, the Congress must accept or reject a trade agreement negotiated by the President as a whole, with no option to amend. It has until 31 May 1991 to refuse an extension.

39. It remains to be seen what outcome the resumed negotiations will produce. However, it would seem that the mid-term decision concerning developing countries will need to be given concrete expression. In that decision, taken at the Uruguay Round Mid-term Review in 1988, in the area of agriculture, it was agreed that:

(a) Special and differential treatment to developing countries remained an integral element of the negotiations, particularly on the strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines;

(b) Government measures on assistance, whether direct or indirect, to encourage agricultural and rural development were an integral part of the development programmes of developing countries;

(c) Ways should be developed to take into account the possible negative effects of the reform process on net food-importing developing countries.

40. A number of empirical studies have indicated that the elimination or reduction of governmental agricultural support measures and protection in industrialized countries would go a long way towards improving the long-term prospects for increasing the share of developing countries in world agricultural trade. However, the reform process in agriculture is likely to lead to higher world food prices, at least for a transitional period, with adverse consequences over a period of time for the external position and welfare of net-food importing countries, especially low-income food-deficit countries. Also, empirical analyses suggest that for a transitional period, some developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, could suffer export losses in tropical products from the erosion of trade preferences. These eventualities point to the need in the reform process to take into account the special role of agriculture in the development process and the need in developing countries to encourage food

production for feeding their population, as well as to adopt measures to offset the possible adverse effects of the reform process on net food-importing developing countries and on low-income countries likely to suffer significant export losses due to the erosion of preferential margins.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECTION ON AGRICULTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

41. The second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991 is meeting approximately six months after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/199 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. While it is perhaps too early to formulate a detailed assessment of progress in implementing the Strategy as concerns agriculture, the paragraphs below review briefly some of the latest available information on developments and trends which would be relevant to such an assessment.

A. Towards meeting the growth target

42. The agriculture section of the Strategy emphasizes the importance of raising agricultural output in developing countries, both as a means to revitalize their economic growth in the 1990s and to strengthen their food security and self-reliance in food. While not formally setting any target rate of growth for agricultural or food production in developing countries, the Strategy maintains that "an annual rate of growth of the order of 4 per cent on average in food production would make a major contribution to food security and support agro-industrial development". Recent trends in food and agricultural production, reported in chapter II (see table 2), indicate that annual growth rates over the past five years (1986-1990) for developing countries as a whole fell far short of the 4 per cent indicative rate. The Far East region, with a growth of 3.5 per cent and 3.3 per cent in food and in agricultural production, respectively, was the only developing region that came close to the target rate.

43. Annual changes in the agricultural production of developing countries, by country and region, are indicated in table 5, for the period 1988-1990. Out of a total of 107 developing countries for which information was available, only 30 countries (28 per cent) had annual growth rates of agricultural production of 4 per cent or more for the 1988-1990 period. On a regional basis, the number of countries was eight in sub-Saharan Africa, eight in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in the Near East, and 10 in the Far East. Information on per capita food production for the most recent period (1989/90) are shown in table 6. As will be noticed, food production lagged behind population growth in 63 out of 107 developing countries (70 per cent) in 1989/90. In sum, if developing countries were to achieve an annual average rate of growth of 4 per cent in food production during the 1990s, then based

on projections of annual average population growth by country for the 1990s, 3/ all developing countries (except perhaps three or four) would register positive per capita growth in food production in the 1990s.

B. National action to raise agricultural production and productivity in developing countries

44. While recognizing that "the great diversity of country situations means that there is no single set of policies of general applicability" 4/ for raising agricultural production and productivity in developing countries, Development Strategy notes that policies and measures based on certain considerations will be of broad applicability. Chief among them is the consideration that "success in reaching the potential for raising agricultural productivity requires a farming population possessed of the knowledge, the incentives and the means required for this purpose". 5/ As mentioned above, it is perhaps too early to attempt an assessment of how countries are implementing the Strategy. Accordingly, only a broad overview of recent developments in policies and measures taken by developing countries which have a bearing on raising agricultural production and productivity is given here.

45. Since the early 1980s, agriculture policy developments in developing countries have been largely influenced by macroeconomic policies designed to rectify internal and external imbalances. Many developing countries have embarked upon some form of stabilization and structural adjustment programme with the general objectives of reducing current account and fiscal deficits, and reducing governmental intervention in market mechanisms. Agriculture sector-specific policies have included changes in the structure of incentives (price and non-price), trade liberalization designed to bring domestic prices in line with "border" prices, deregulation and privatization of trade and market channels.

46. Recent developments in the agricultural policies of developing countries have seen a continuation of the previous trend towards liberalizing trade, either through allowing greater private-sector participation or by reducing subsidies and taxes. In 1989 and 1990, several countries lowered or eliminated import duties on food products (e.g., Argentina, Congo, Costa Rica, and Sierra Leone), while others replaced non-tariff measures such as import quotas and licences by tariffs (e.g., Colombia, Costa Rica and Sierra Leone). In addition, legislation to facilitate the increased participation of the private sector in external trade was undertaken by Colombia, Costa Rica and Yemen. In both the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, private traders are now allowed to obtain licences for international transactions in cereals, following the rescinding of monopoly powers previously held by parastatals.

47. Recent production policy changes have been designed primarily to raise output, particularly in developing importing countries. In a number of cases this involved improved price incentives, and in others the introduction or reinforcement of non-price measures. For example, real support prices for wheat were raised in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia in order to promote domestic

production, as were paddy prices in Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Malaysia, paddy prices were increased for the first time in 10 years, while in Mexico a premium was introduced for white over yellow maize.

48. Regarding non-price measures, following a fall in output of many food commodities in 1989/90, partly a result of inadequate finance prior to planting, Brazil this year once again attempted to promote production through provision of greater credit availability and lower interest rates, as well as a 50 per cent cut in import tariffs on fertilizers and agricultural equipment. In order to promote maize production, seeds were distributed free of charge in the Côte d'Ivoire, together with improved provision of technical assistance and credit. The Philippines launched a Rice Action Programme focusing on almost a third of its provinces, involving provision of infrastructural and marketing services. Similar, non-price policies intended to raise paddy production were introduced in Bangladesh, by enhancing the distribution of fertilizers; in India, where a scheme for the integrated development of rice production was implemented in 19 states; in Indonesia, through a considerable increase in governmental spending on irrigation; and in Viet Nam, where the Government reduced the extent to which farmers are taxed on their output.

C. International action

49. The Strategy notes that a number of steps are also needed at the international level to promote agricultural development during the Decade. In particular, it states that "finance for investments in the agricultural sector and technical assistance should form part of programmes for development co-operation, both bilateral and multilateral". 6/ In line with earlier remarks concerning assessment of the implementation so far of the Strategy, the present section reviews recent trends in external assistance to agriculture in developing countries.

50. Total commitments of external lending to agriculture dropped to about $14.7 billion in 1989, which is the latest year for which complete coverage is available (see table 7). At nominal prices this amount is 8 per cent less than in 1988 and slightly higher than 1986 and 1987 levels. If total commitments are deflated by prices of manufactured goods, in real terms 1989 shows a decrease of 8 per cent in relation to 1988, 5 per cent in relation to 1987 and 15 per cent in relation to 1986. During the past few years, however, there has been an increase in the share of grants in total commitments, from 23 per cent in 1986 to 30 per cent in 1989.

51. An increase of bilateral assistance from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) from 1986 to 1988 has more than offset the sustained decline of multilateral commitments. In 1989 bilateral assistance dropped by 13 per cent, following an increase of about 27 per cent in 1988, reflecting Japan's intentions to raise the share of its official development assistance in OECD's total, in line with Japan's share of GDP in DAC countries. EEC lending, after a notable increase in 1987 and 1988, has shown a decrease in 1989 of about 20 per cent in relation to 1988.

52. For multilateral lending, estimates are available up to 1990. With an estimate of $7.2 billion in 1990, multilateral commitments of external assistance to agriculture fell by almost 18 per cent from 1986. In 1990 World Bank lending increased by about 8 per cent, mainly due to a steady increase in IDA lending that more than offset an IBRD lending decrease.

53. Lending from regional banks fell in 1990, reflecting mainly a low level of commitments signed by the Asian Development Bank, which contrasted with the higher levels of commitments signed by the Inter-American Development Bank.

54. Total disbursements of external lending to agriculture dropped to about $12.3 billion in 1989 (see table 7). At nominal prices this amount is 13 per cent less than in 1988 and 1 per cent more than in 1987. If total disbursements are deflated by prices of manufactured goods, in real terms 1989 shows a decline of 13 per cent in relation to 1988, of 5 per cent in relation to 1987 and of 14 per cent in relation to 1986. During the past few years there has been an increase in the share of grants in total disbursements from 34 per cent in 1986 to 40 per cent in 1989.

55. The increase of bilateral assistance from the OECD Development Assistance Committee from 1986 to 1988 was followed by a decline in 1989, when bilateral assistance dropped by more than 7 per cent over 1988. Japan's disbursements in 1989 were about 23 per cent of the total DAC disbursements.

56. For multilateral disbursements, estimates are available up to 1990. With an estimate of $6.5 billion in 1990, multilateral disbursements of external assistance to agriculture fell by almost 14 per cent from 1988. In 1990 IBRD disbursements increased by about 5 per cent and IDA disbursements by about 18 per cent.

57. Lending from regional banks fell slightly in 1990, mainly reflecting the low level of disbursements of the African Development Fund and African Development Bank.

Notes

1/ Since the Second World War, the value of world trade in agriculture has not declined in absolute terms, but its growth has been much slower than that of the world trade in other products, both because of slower growth of the volume of trade and because of a declining trend in world prices of agricultural products relative to the prices of other merchandise, particularly manufacturers.

2/ See Financial Times (24 April 1991).

3/ See, for example, UNDP, Human Development Report, 1990 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1990).

Notes (continued)

4/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex, para. 72.

5/ Ibid., para. 73.

6/ Ibid., para. 77. The Strategy also calls, at the international level, for the removal of existing distortions in international trade in agriculture. Existing distortions in international trade and current efforts to remove them are reviewed in chapter II of this report.

Table 1. Aggregate food trade of developing countries, 1989 a/

(In millions of United States dollars)

	Gross food b/ imports	Gross food exports	Net food imports
Developing countries (132)	61 630.1	44 936.6	16 693.5
Net exporters (28) c/	12 550.0	31 406.9	-18 856.9
Net importers (104)	49 080.1	13 529.7	-35 550.4
Low-income food deficit countries c/	19 733.9	9 778.8	9 955.1
World	216 202.1		

Source: FAO Agrostat files and UNCTAD calculations.

Note: Negative sign (-) indicates net exports.

a/ Data rounded.

b/ "Food" is defined by FAO as all products that are considered edible and contain nutrients in their raw or processed forms. For the present purposes, the following commodities have been excluded: cocoa beans and products and other tropical beverages, fish and fishery products, feeding stuffs (SITC 08), alcoholic beverages, tropical fruits and spices, and live animals.

c/ FAO has identified 69 countries as low-income food-deficit - that is, food-deficit countries with per capita GNP less than $940 (in 1987 prices), which is the cut-off level for eligibility for IDA assistance.

Table 2. Annual changes in food and agricultural production, 1985-1989

(Percentage)

	1988	1989	1990	Average annual change 1981-1985	Average annual change 1986-1990
Food					
Africa	5.2	3.2	-0.6	2.7	2.5
Far East	5.4	4.5	3.1	4.6	3.5
Latin America	5.5	1.5	0.3	2.8	1.9
Near East	5.9	-9.0	7.1	3.2	1.7
Total, developing countries	5.4	2.7	2.4	3.8	2.9
North America	-7.6	11.6	2.7	3.1	-0.1
Oceania	4.2	-2.2	0.6	2.9	0.3
Western Europe	-1.6	1.4	-0.4	1.0	0.3
EEC (12)	-1.8	1.3	-0.1	1.0	0.4
Eastern Europe	0.6	0.5	-2.5	2.2	-0.1
USSR	-1.2	4.1	-0.4	2.1	2.0
Total, developed countries	-2.9	4.7	0.3	1.9	0.4
World	1.5	3.6	1.4	2.8	1.7
Agriculture					
Africa	4.9	3.2	-0.8	2.7	2.5
Far East	5.5	4.3	2.8	4.8	3.3
Latin America	4.5	1.1	0.5	2.8	1.7
Near East	6.1	-8.6	6.8	2.9	1.6
Total, developing countries	5.3	2.5	2.2	4.0	2.7
North America	-7.1	10.3	3.6	3.2	-
Oceania	4.1	-1.7	2.9	2.9	1.0
Western Europe	-1.5	1.3	-0.3	1.0	0.3
EEC (12)	-1.6	1.2	-	1.1	0.4
Eastern Europe	0.3	0.1	-2.4	2.2	-0.2
USSR	-0.9	3.7	-0.6	2.0	1.8
Total, developed countries	-2.6	4.2	0.7	1.9	0.4
World	1.6	3.2	1.5	2.9	1.6

Source: FAO.

Table 3. Shares in world agricultural export and import (values) of various groups of countries

		Developing countries	Developed market economy countries						Socialist countries		World
			EEC a/	USA	Japan	EFTA a/	Others	Total	Eastern Europe	Asia	
						All food items					
Exports	1970	33.5	28.6	14.9	1.5	2.6	10.3	57.7	7.0	1.8	100
	1975	29.7	31.6	18.1	0.7	2.1	10.1	62.6	5.7	2.1	100
	1980	29.6	34.7	18.0	0.8	2.2	9.3	64.8	4.1	1.5	100
	1985	32.4	35.3	14.1	0.8	2.4	9.1	61.7	3.7	2.3	100
	1986	31.2	29.3	12.0	0.7	2.5	8.1	62.5	3.6	2.7	100
	1987	28.1	42.6	11.8	0.7	2.7	8.0	65.7	3.4	2.7	100
	1988	27.1	41.7	13.6	0.6	2.4	8.1	64.5	3.2	2.6	100
	1989	27.1	41.5	14.4	0.6	2.4	8.0	66.9	3.2	2.8	100
Imports	1970	18.0	42.6	12.5	6.1	5.0	5.3	71.6	8.8	1.6	100
	1976	22.7	39.8	8.1	7.9	4.1	4.7	64.7	11.4	1.3	100
	1980	25.2	39.0	7.9	7.0	3.9	3.9	61.7	11.3	1.8	100
	1985	25.2	36.6	10.3	8.0	3.3	4.7	63.0	11.0	0.9	100
	1986	21.7	41.0	10.1	8.6	3.9	4.6	68.3	9.1	1.0	100
	1987	20.4	43.3	9.2	9.0	4.0	4.5	70.0	8.4	1.3	100
	1988	21.6	42.5	8.4	10.3	3.8	4.3	68.7	8.3	1.4	100
	1989	22.2	40.4	8.6	10.3	3.6	4.6	67.6	8.6	1.7	100
						Agricultural raw materials					
Exports	1970	33.5	11.4	11.4	0.3	12.5	19.7	55.4	9.9	1.2	100
	1975	28.1	13.8	13.6	0.4	12.8	18.2	58.9	11.5	1.5	100
	1980	30.4	13.9	15.3	0.3	11.8	18.9	60.2	7.9	1.5	100
	1985	25.5	16.3	14.4	0.3	10.1	21.6	62.8	8.7	3.0	100
	1986	24.1	18.4	13.0	0.4	0.6	21.4	63.8	8.7	3.4	100
	1987	23.6	14.8	14.1	0.3	10.4	21.7	65.4	7.6	3.5	100
	1988	24.5	18.0	14.0	0.4	9.9	22.9	65.1	7.3	3.1	100
	1989	23.6	16.6	15.8	0.3	10.1	23.6	66.4	6.7	3.3	100

Table 3 (continued)

		Developing countries	Developed market economy countries					Socialist countries		World
			EEC a/	USA	Japan	EFTA a/	Others	Total	Eastern Europe	Asia	
Imports	1970	11.4	42.0	9.3	16.7	4.0	4.2	76.3	11.3	1.0	100
	1975	14.4	39.4	9.0	16.2	4.7	4.4	73.7	10.5	1.5	100
	1980	15.7	39.4	7.9	18.3	4.3	3.8	73.8	7.4	3.2	100
	1985	18.7	35.7	11.2	15.2	4.4	4.4	70.9	7.8	2.5	100
	1986	18.2	37.7	10.5	14.0	5.1	4.3	72.4	6.8	2.6	100
	1987	18.4	37.7	9.8	16.4	5.2	3.9	73.0	6.2	2.5	100
	1988	18.4	37.1	9.7	16.9	5.0	3.7	72.4	6.3	2.8	100
	1989	18.8	36.9	10.3	18.1	4.6	2.8	72.6	5.3	3.3	100

Source: UNCTAD, Commodity Yearbook, 1991 (forthcoming).

a/ Prior to 1970, the members of EEC were Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands; the members of EFTA were Austria, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. In 1970, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom became members of EEC; in 1980, Greece, Spain and Portugal were added. EEC figures include intra-trade.

.../

Table 4. Share of developing countries in world agricultural exports, by product category

(Percentage)

	1979-1981	1983-1985	1987-1989
Cereals	13	15	12
Meat	14	14	12
Dairy products	2	2	2
Edible oils	44	48	46
Sugar	61	68	55
Tropical beverages	85	84	79
Spices	81	80	75
Tobacco (unmanufactured) and roots	43	44	44
Tropical fruits and nuts	72	73	71
Rubber and tropical wood	77	73	74
Jute and hard fibres	78	75	--
Fishery products	38	41	42

Source: FAO, Trade Yearbook and UNCTAD calculations.

Table 5. Percentage change in agricultural production, 1987-1990

Country	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1987-1990
Botswana	31.52	-1.08	-1.28	9.72
Zimbabwe	29.02	-7.33	1.54	7.74
Benin	17.32	8.86	-3.44	7.58
Niger	29.96	-10.54	-2.68	5.58
Togo	9.85	10.41	-3.84	5.47
Nigeria	7.05	8.34	0.58	5.32
Mali	12.50	2.66	0.30	5.15
Kenya	9.71	0.77	4.08	4.85
Uganda	7.82	2.15	0.94	3.64
Central African Republic	5.72	3.72	1.22	3.55
Malawi	7.84	3.63	-1.25	3.41
Zambia	22.90	-0.20	-13.87	2.94
Burkina Faso	12.49	-2.21	-1.92	2.79
Gabon	4.17	1.96	2.01	2.71
Lesotho	17.59	-14.61	4.07	2.35
Ethiopia	1.20	3.46	2.39	2.35
Chad	10.03	-4.87	1.07	2.08
Namibia	-0.84	4.40	2.51	2.02
Somalia	4.33	3.17	-1.61	1.96
Comoros	2.37	1.24	2.04	1.88
Zaire	2.96	1.92	0.71	1.86
Mozambique	1.46	3.08	0.84	1.79
Madagascar	0.43	2.75	1.92	1.70
Congo	2.96	-4.03	6.16	1.70
Sudan	25.73	-22.10	1.32	1.65
Gambia	-2.55	11.45	-4.05	1.62
Cotê d'Ivoire	7.02	-0.23	-2.34	1.48
Guinea	0.27	-2.98	7.08	1.46
Cameroon	6.19	-5.25	2.77	1.24
Ghana	8.14	0.75	-5.32	1.19
United Republic of Tanzania	1.37	6.82	-5.04	1.05
Swaziland	4.23	-2.07	0.16	0.77
Guinea-Bissau	-0.08	1.67	0.49	0.69
Mauritania	3.56	2.12	-4.41	0.42
Rwanda	1.23	1.68	-2.75	0.05
Sierra Leone	-4.68	1.23	3.08	-0.12
Mauritius	-6.58	0.18	3.83	-0.86
Angola	-0.90	-2.51	0.21	-1.07
Senegal	-12.27	12.55	-6.39	-2.04
Burundi	-0.72	-4.18	-2.60	-2.50
Cape Verde	-6.38	-7.38	4.97	-2.93
Liberia	-0.90	-0.66	-22.72	-8.09

Table 5 (continued)

Country	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1987-1990
		Latin America		
Paraguay	19.65	8.85	2.24	10.25
Chile	5.24	8.87	5.71	6.61
Honduras	8.57	1.25	8.37	6.06
Ecuador	11.62	2.23	1.82	5.22
Colombia	4.61	6.79	3.81	5.07
Belize	-3.17	5.99	10.34	4.39
Costa Rica	1.92	5.40	5.69	4.34
Uruguay	6.56	7.37	-1.53	4.13
Guatemala	4.36	4.98	0.76	3.37
Bolivia	7.14	0.91	1.80	3.28
El Salvador	-7.25	2.47	14.23	3.15
Argentina	10.58	-0.74	-1.85	2.66
Mexico	4.85	-2.48	5.53	2.63
Trinidad and Tobago	20.15	-25.46	13.17	2.62
Venezuela	5.46	-0.33	0.17	1.77
Nicaragua	-2.71	4.87	1.86	1.34
Panama	-9.49	7.45	3.92	0.63
Cuba	4.23	0.18	-2.79	0.54
Suriname	-4.49	4.81	1.07	0.46
Barbados	5.03	-5.64	1.95	0.45
Dominican Republic	2.59	7.39	-10.40	-0.14
Brazil	1.64	4.47	-6.93	-0.27
Peru	9.04	-1.20	-10.56	-0.91
Haiti	-1.81	-0.46	-2.03	-1.43
Jamaica	-3.34	-5.60	1.58	-2.45
Guyana	-4.06	-11.30	7.38	-2.66
		Asia		
Fiji	5.01	15.08	2.54	7.54
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-1.63	14.73	8.71	7.27
India	12.81	6.40	-1.03	6.06
Cambodia	14.45	2.90	0.57	5.97
Viet Nam	2.52	8.09	4.55	5.05
Nepal	15.43	1.52	-2.06	4.96
Malaysia	7.26	4.55	2.53	4.78
Indonesia	4.35	5.22	4.63	4.73
Bangladesh	-1.06	12.83	1.75	4.51
Singapore	-15.38	25.68	3.13	4.48
Pakistan	3.30	6.54	2.60	4.15
Papua New Guinea	4.85	5.84	0.54	3.74

Table 5 (continued)

Country	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1987-1990
Hong Kong	-4.60	11.82	3.89	3.70
China	1.76	2.56	6.67	3.66
Thailand	10.29	3.11	-3.40	3.33
Philippines	2.04	3.99	3.56	3.20
Sri Lanka	3.95	-3.60	6.01	2.12
Mongolia	0.85	5.36	-0.18	2.01
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1.96	0.64	2.31	1.64
Samoa	-1.36	-0.39	5.93	1.39
Tonga	1.96	0.29	1.73	1.33
Republic of Korea	9.09	-0.27	-10.63	-0.60
Brunei Darussalam	-3.98	-9.30	0.85	-4.14
Myanmar	-8.79	-10.73	1.05	-6.16
Near East and North Africa				
Saudi Arabia	171.13	-2.32	0.00	56.27
Syrian Arab Republic	30.64	-32.48	26.54	8.23
Cyprus	16.60	0.81	2.14	6.52
Morocco	24.30	1.68	-8.25	5.91
Yemen	13.24	-3.36	-1.65	2.74
Lebanon	-4.77	9.64	2.91	2.59
Iraq	-3.29	4.43	5.87	2.34
Egypt	3.08	0.14	3.55	2.26
Turkey	6.17	-6.71	7.28	2.25
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-1.22	0.76	3.48	1.01
Afghanistan	2.53	-3.29	2.06	0.43
Jordan	6.73	-10.57	5.10	0.42
Tunisia	-26.71	19.51	7.58	0.13
Algeria	-9.71	3.95	2.43	-1.11
Iran	-4.17	-5.00	3.28	-1.96

Source: FAO.

Table 6. Annual rate of change in per capita food production, by developing country, 1989-1990

Percentage	Country	Number of countries
Over 10	Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic	2
5.01 to 10	Argentina, Cape Verde, Guatemala, Guyana, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia	7
3.01 to 5	Bhutan, China, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Turkey	7
0.1 to 3	Algeria, Barbados, Bangladesh, Belize, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe	28
0 to -3	Angola, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, India, Kenya, Kampuchea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Guinea-Bissau, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Suriname, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zaire	40
-3 to -5	Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Honduras, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Senegal	8
-5.01 to -10	Benin, Brazil, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Rwanda, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen	14
Below -10	Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Zambia	4
	Total	107

Source: FAO.

Note: Based on information available up to 19 February 1991.

Table 7. Commitments and disbursements of external assistance to agriculture (broad definition), 1985-1989

(Millions of United States dollars)

Donors	Total commitments					Total disbursements				
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990 a/
					At current prices					
Total commitments/disbursements	(14 405)	(14 491)	(15 997)	(14 720)	..	(11 934)	(12 206)	(14 187)	(12 360)	..
of which grants	(3 294)	(4 450)	(4 963)	(4 469)	..	(4 120)	(4 980)	(5 675)	(4 989)	..
Bilateral	(5 683)	(6 757)	(8 592)	(7 488)	..	(5 160)	(5 790)	(6 690)	(6 225)	..
of which grants	(2 715)	(3 888)	(4 323)	(3 800)	..	(3 550)	(4 430)	(5 070)	(4 360)	..
Multilateral	8 722	7 734	7 405	7 232	7 185	6 774	6 416	7 496	6 135	6 460
of which grants	579	562	640	669	(670)	570	550	605	(629)	(630)
World Bank	5 520	4 045	3 951	4 045	4 354	4 163	3 882	4 749	3 380	3 716
IBRD	4 636	2 632	2 189	2 596	2 337	2 787	2 532	2 943	2 204	2 324
IDA	884	1 413	1 762	1 449	2 017	1 376	1 350	1 806	1 176	1 392
IFAD	131	216	176	240	302	244	234	203	194	198
Regional development banks	2 091	2 663	2 483	2 077	(1 792)	1 665	1 620	1 784	1 743	(1 726)
OPEC multilateral	425	272	216	280	(147)	(150)	(150)	(180)	(228)	(230)
UNDP/FAO/OGIAR	551	530	578	(590)	(590)	551	530	580	(590)	(590)
					At constant 1985 prices b/					
Total commitments/disbursements	12 004	10 734	11 109	10 222	..	19 944	9 042	9 852	8 583	..
of which grants	(7 745)	(3 296)	(3 446)	(3 104)	..	3 433	3 689	3 941	3 465	..
Bilateral	4 736	50 005	5 967	5 200	..	4 300	4 289	4 646	4 323	..
of which grants	2 262	2 880	3 002	2 639	..	2 958	3 281	3 521	3 028	..
Multilateral	7 268	5 729	5 142	5 022	4 519	5 644	4 753	5 206	4 260	4 063
of which grants	483	416	444	465	421	475	407	420	437	396

Source: FAO, Statistics Division, and OECD.

Note: () Including partial estimates.

a/ Preliminary data.

b/ Deflated by United Nations index of unit value of exports of manufactured goods; 1985 = 100.